

Natchez Terrorist Incident, Natchez, MS

Special POLREP, 12/05/01

Site and Incident Description:

At approximately 17:00 hours on October 22, 2001, USEPA, Region 4 was notified of a terrorist incident involving suspected anthrax at the USCG Shoreline Detachment, Natchez, Mississippi. A white single engine plane came from the south up the Mississippi River and sprayed an unknown white powder onto the 2 acre area adjacent to a building of the USCG Shoreline Detachment. Also, a USCG member was sprayed by some of the powder and was taken to the emergency room for precautionary purposes (non-symptomatic).

Response:

OSC D. Karen Knight deployed a member of the EPA START contractor to provide technical assistance to USCG, FBI and MDEQ. START prepared a draft Health and Safety Plan and Site Sampling and Analysis Plan for the USCG. MDEQ contractor collected the samples (background, wipes and small unknown white pellets) and the State Health Laboratory in Jackson, Mississippi analyzed the samples for anthrax and other microbiological species.

Community Involvement:

Local police provided Site Security.

Unusual Circumstances:

The FBI took over the Site on October 23, 2001 to initiate an investigation of the incident.

Future Considerations:

None